

TO THE

Right Honourable and Honourable

THE

KNIGHTS, CITIZENS AND BURGESSES,

IN PARLIAMENT ASSEMBLED;

THE

PETITION

OF THE

GOVERNORS OF THE FOUNDLING HOSPITAL.

MOST HUMBLY SHEWETH,

THAT the Legislature having thought fit to continue the present Form of the Government of this Hospital to the twenty-fourth of June one thousand eight hundred, the Governors consider it their Duty to explain to this Honourable House, as clearly as possible, the State of this Charity, the Advantages which have arisen from the Regulations adopted by them, and the Plans they have in Contemplation for the future well being of the Institution.

That on the 25th December last there were supported by the Charity three thousand two hundred and ninety-five Children, of whom six hundred and twenty-five were in the Hospital aged nine Years and upwards, fifty-one Infants in the Nursery, and two thousand six hundred and nineteen at nurse in the Country, of whom one hundred and seventy have been sent thither on account of their bad State of Health.

That the Children of nine Years old and upwards are instructed in Reading, Writing, Arithmetick, and the Principles of the Protestant Religion.

That several useful Manufactures have been established for the Employment of the Children, by which they have been enabled to contribute to the Maintenance and Clothing of each other; and with a further View of promoting these Advantages the Governors have lately established a Manufacture of Flannel and

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other



other Woollen Cloths on an extensive Plan, which they hope will not only obviate the Necessity of purchasing any Article of that Description, but will likewise enable the Children, instructed therein, to procure their future Livelihood, and to become useful Members of Society.

The Governors have hereunto annexed a general Abstract of the Accounts of this Hospital for one Year ending the 24th June 1799, the Particulars of which are fully set forth in the Accounts delivered to the Commissioners of Account; this Statement is taken up from the 24th June 1798, the Commencement of the present Board, the several Funds remaining at that Time are included, and those which have arisen up to the 24th June 1799 have been added, by which the produce of each can be ascertained. On the opposite Side of the Account are stated the Debts remaining unpaid on the 24th June 1798, together with the Amount of the actual Expense of the Year ending the 24th June 1799, and a Statement of the actual Payments which have been made for the same within that Period. This Account presents in one View a Statement of the Expense of the Institution for that Year, and of the Cash actually received and expended, with the Balance of Cash remaining thereon, to which is added a Summary of the Debts unpaid on the 24th June 1799, and of the Funds then remaining, which together with the House-Tax chargeable from that Period, will be applicable to the Debts requisite to be discharged, and to maintain the Expense of the Institution to the 24th June 1800.

With regard to the annual Charge necessary for the future Maintenance of the Institution, it appears to the Governors, from the best Calculation they can make, that the Sum of sixteen thousand three hundred Pounds being appropriated thereto will be sufficient for all its Purposes.

That the net Receipts of the House-Tax and other Funds belonging to the Charity, properly collected, will produce an Income not short of seven thousand Pounds, and that an additional Grant from Parliament of nine thousand three hundred Pounds, including Pells and Poundage, in Aid thereof, will be the Sum required for the Support of the Charity from the 24th June 1800 to the 24th June 1801; and that a similar annual Grant will in all probability be necessary for its future Maintenance while it is judged expedient to continue it.

The Governors have made up this Estimate with as much Minuteness as was practicable, but this Honourable House must be



be aware that the future Expenses of the Foundling Hospital, whilst it is open to the indiscriminate and unlimited Admission of Children, cannot be as precisely ascertained as might be done under other Circumstances. Neither can the Funds appropriated to its Support be too closely limited consistently with the Object of the Institution; the most rigid Economy is doubtless the Duty of the Governors, and whatsoever can be saved by any possible Means, this Honourable House may be assured shall be faithfully brought forward to the public Credit, either to make up an Encrease of the Expenditure, if such should unavoidably occur in the succeeding Year, or to be refunded to the Public if such should be considered adviseable.

The Governors therefore humbly pray, that this Honourable House will make a Grant of the Sum of nine thousand three hundred Pounds for the Maintenance of the Foundling Hospital from the 24th June 1800 to the 24th June 1801.

The Governors continuing to debit themselves for a large Sum due to Country Nurses, without making any apparent Provision for the same, think it necessary to explain to this Honourable House that the same is notwithstanding, by the Drafting of the Children into the House, in an annual State of Liquidation, and will be ultimately paid off from the general Funds, without any additional Charge coming against the Public at any Time for that specific Purpose.

The Governors beg Leave to observe, that the actual Expense of the Year ending the 24th June 1799, amounted to fifteen thousand six hundred and eighty-seven Pounds nine Shillings and five Pence; that the Estimate for the same Period was sixteen thousand eight hundred and fifty-two Pounds five Shillings and three Pence, from which there has been a Saving of eleven hundred and sixty-four Pounds fifteen Shillings and ten Pence; that by an extraordinary Exertion in the Collection of the House-Tax, owing in a great Measure to the unceasing Assiduity of the Supervisor, a further Addition will remain to the general Fund, both of which Sums, together with any other Saving which can be made, shall be placed to the public Credit in the Account of the present Year.

The Governors do not by any Means assert, that a Diminution in the Expenditure is all Cases a Proof of Economy under the peculiar Circumstances of this Charity, but when it is considered that a great Addition of Expense has been incurred by the Establishment of separate Schools for the Male and Female Children,



dren, on an improved and more costly System of Education, and also by the Establishment of Manufactures, upon which large Sums has been expended without any present Return, that neither of those Charges were included in the last Year's Estimate, although both have been provided for out of it, it is hoped this Honourable House will consider that the Governors have not been inattentive to a prudent Expenditure of the Funds entrusted to their Management.

The Governors being precluded from giving additional Rewards to their Officers, however meritorious their Services, and also for making a Provision for such Servants of the Charity as having spent the active Years of their Lives in its Service, and are from Age and Infirmary incapable of discharging their Duties in it, most humbly pray for such additional Powers as this Honourable House in its Wisdom and Humanity may think fit.

Whatsoever Regulations this Honourable House may think proper to adopt for the Maintenance of the Foundling Hospital in this or in other Particulars, the Governors will cheerfully accede to; happy if in the conscientious Discharge of the Duties imposed upon them, they can contribute to render this great Institution adequate in the Extent of its Relief to the Liberality with which the Public has supported it.

ALTAMONT.

February 8th, 1800.